

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release:

Monday, November 02, 2015

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Closing for remodel...

Augusta Welcome Center shutting down Nov. 9 for construction

AUGUSTA—The Georgia Department of Transportation in June announced positive news about upcoming statewide Interstate Welcome Center and Rest Area renovations. The Augusta Welcome Center off Interstate 20 was selected as one-of-eight centers slated for rehabilitation. Starting Monday, Nov. 9 at 7 a.m., the Augusta facility will close for an estimated 110-day construction period.

Augusta's 15,000-square foot center opened in 1997. The building will be remodeled and retrofit within a \$871,000 budget. No taxpayer money is involved in the Welcome Center project. Funds come from advertising revenue collected from the State Transportation Board's interstate exit sign Logo Program.

During the closure, contractors will address the following items: new signage; repair both car and truck parking lots; re-stripe parking lots; landscaping (sod, trees, shrubs, etc.); demolish existing restroom building and replace with pavilion; demolish rear of building to increase space and add restrooms; replace HVAC system (chiller system); install new plumbing fixtures (toilets, urinals, sinks) with automatic flush valves and motion sensors; update fire alarm system; replace wall switches with occupancy sensors; replace all light fixtures with LEDs; repair/replace drywall; and paint the entire building.

The entrance ramp at the Welcome Center will be barricaded during this time. This facility must close completely to avoid any possible injuries to the public, while allowing the contractor to complete the work as quickly as possible.

Existing signage will be covered and a portable sign installed approximately one mile up the westbound traffic stream, reflecting that the Welcome Center is closed for a remodel.

DriveAlert ArriveAlive calls attention to an alarming increase in roadway fatalities across Georgia, many resulting from preventable crashes and distracted driving. ***DriveAlert***

ArriveAlive implores motorists to buckle up; stay off the phone and no texting; and drive alert. Visit www.dot.ga.gov/DS/SafetyOperation/DAAA. #ArriveAliveGA

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